

# COLUMBIAN HISTORIAN.

*"Enlightened minds and virtuous manners lead to the gates of glory."*

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CTS. PER ANNUM, PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY IN ADVANCE.

"He kept the fierce Opechan-  
" canough and three hundred of  
" his chief warriors at bay; bid-  
" ding defiance to their arrows,  
" their tomahawks, and scalping  
" knives."

Here the young prince threw  
himself into several hostile atti-  
tudes.

"None dared to approach him.  
" They all stood motionless with  
" terror; and it is not to their  
" prowess, but accident, that the  
" white man owes his captivity.  
" O consent, my father! and you,  
" O warriors, second the petition  
" I make, that the prisoner be re-  
" stored to his expecting country-  
" men."

Opitchapan, the chief war-cap-  
tain of Powhatan, now stood up,  
amidst the circle of auditors seat-  
ed on the ground.

"Hear, O my king," cried Op-  
" itchapan, and you, O chief war-  
" riors, the prophetic voice  
" of warning. Let us not bury  
" the tomahawk. The bones of  
" six warriors, slain by the cap-  
" tive, are yet uncovered, and  
" their spirits cry out against us."

Here tears flowed from the  
eyes of Opitchapan, and the war-  
whoop trembled on his lips.

"The genii, who are the guar-  
" dians of our honour, inspire us  
" to crush the whites, who have  
" ravished from us our lands,  
" laid waste our fields, and slain  
" our brethren in arms. Be not,  
" therefore, passive, but anoint  
" your hair, paint your faces, fill  
" your quivers, make the woods

"ring with your whoop, console  
" the spirits of the murdered, and  
" tell them they are avenged."

And here, snatching up his tom-  
ahawk in a transport of fury, he  
began to sing the song of war.

Kahoky, the high priest was  
now consulted, who, rising, spoke  
as follows:

"Though it becomes my sa-  
" cred function to promote peace  
" and quiet, yet in this cause I  
" burn with impatience to im-  
" brue both my hands in the  
" blood of the whites. They  
" come not only to rob, but to  
" make inroads on our religion.  
" Brothers! by the inspiration of  
" the Great Spirit! I now speak  
" unto you, and by him I am  
" prompted to wipe away the  
" blood of the slain. Let us as-  
" semble and march through the  
" war-path to surprise them. Let  
" us take their scalps, drink their  
" blood, and roast them alive."

"O king, my father," resumed  
" Nantaquas, "restore the white  
" man to liberty, and let me con-  
" duct him to his brethren. We  
" will forget our songs of war,  
" and exchange them for songs of  
" peace. I will make a great  
" chain of friendship with the  
" whites, never to be broken.  
" We will smoke as brothers out  
" of the pipe of peace. Hear me,  
" sire! Great designs fill my  
" breast. I will learn whatever  
" arts are of use and advantage,  
" and introduce them into my  
" own country."

Two days after these debates,



Powhatan disguised himself in the most frightful manner his imagination could suggest. He then caused captain Smith to be carried to a great wigwam in the woods, and there to be left alone on a mat by the fire. Not long after, from behind a kind of arras that divided the apartment, was made the most doleful noise his ears had ever heard; and presently Powhatan, with about two hundred of his Indians frightfully disguised, rushed from behind the arras, with the most hellish shouts and cries, cast themselves into a ring about the fire, singing and dancing with strange variety, often relapsing into their infernal passions, and then solemnly betaking themselves again to sing and dance. Powhatan advanced towards captain Smith and informed him that they were now friends, and he should immediately go to James Town, and send him one of the engines of war whose voice could mimic the thunder of the clouds; that he would give him the country of Capahowsic in exchange for it, and ever after esteem him next to his son Nantaquas.

The next morning captain Smith set out for James Town, accompanied by the young prince, Paw-hunt, Namasket, Chillaback and Saconet, four distinguished young warriors, besides seven more of subordinate rank, who composed the travelling train of the prince.

Miami, son to Kahoky, the chief priest, contended to make one of the party instead of Saconet; and a dispute ensued, which rose to such an height that brandishing their tomahawks, they would have determined the affair by single combat, had not Powhatan disarmed them with an angry frown. So violent was the

rage of Miami that, after he had been disclaimed, he stood half an hour at the door of his father's wigwam, looking at Saconet with a vindictive aspect, and in sullen silence.

Pocahontas beheld the departure of captain Smith with eyes brimful of tears. She had not been apprized of it, and that day had put on for the first time a cloak ingeniously woven from the scarlet feathers of the Flamingo, which a prince from the nation of the Kanhawas had laid at her feet. It was just large enough to cover her beautiful bosom and shoulders, and was ornamented round the edges with a fanciful fringe. But her countenance was now at variance with the gaiety of her dress. She looked extremely dejected; and when captain Smith came to salute and bid her farewell, she replied with loud weeping.

Nantaquas and his three young companions, Namasket, Chillaback and Saconet, were equipped, either for the sports of the field, or a conflict with an enemy. In describing the dress of the Prince I describe the dress of all. His long black hair hung loose, rioting on his mach coat, thrown gracefully over his shoulders. His leggings, which, by their tightness, displayed his muscular growth, reached half way up the thigh, and wanted only waistbands to resemble pantaloons: they were sowed to his mocasons, and embroidered round the ancle, and at the seams, with porcupine quills. In one hand he held his bow, and over his back was slung a quiver, which was made of the skin of a wolf, with the head hanging to it. Such was the costume of the young red prince, who, leaning on his bow, meditated



either hunting, war or love.

Kahoky the priest, having burnt tobacco instead of incense to the sun, to bribe him to send fair weather and a prosperous journey to the party, the young prince and his retinue went dancing and singing out of the town, amidst the war-whoop of the men and the acclamations of the women.

Their road lay through a country well stocked with oaks, poplars, pines cedars, and cypress. The theatre of nature could be scarcely more magnificent. For here rose tall forests, there rolled a large river, and herds of wild animals were seen browsing on its banks. The whole country displayed an exuberant verdure; the dogwood was shedding its blossoms in the wilderness, and the wild strawberry purpled the woods, the fields, the plains.

The party encamped at evening, round a cypress, which invited them to repose after the fatigues of their march. The cypress is in the first order of American trees. Its majestic stature, the stateliness of its trunk, lifting its cumbrous branches towards the skies, the delicacy of its colour, and the texture of its leaves, fill the mind with mingled emotions of pleasure and awe. From its mighty branches hang streamers of long moss, that float in the wind; and on its lofty top the eagle builds his nest, and the stork finds a resting place.

The sun was decending beneath the mountains, the shadows of the Indians grew longer, the wild geese, in successive flocks, pursuing their flight home, proclaimed their passage by their cries; and a mocking-bird, perched on a neighboring white thorn was warbling to the last rays of day his farewell song.

The mocking-bird is the sweetest chorister of the feathered race, without excepting even the nightingale. While it possesses the power of imitating the notes of other birds, it equals the charming songster in the peculiar melody of its own strain.

But the mocking-bird mingles action with its song, and its measured movements accompany and express the succession of its emotions. Its prelude is to rise slowly with expanded wings, and soon sink back to the same spot, its head hanging down wards. Its action now corresponds with the varied nature of its music. If the notes are brisk and lively, it describes in the air a number of circles crossing each other; or it ascends and decends continually in a spiral. If they are loud and rapid, it with equal briskness flaps its wings. Is its song unequal? it flutters, it bounds. Do its tones soften by degrees, and melt into tender strains, and die away in a pause more charming than the sweetest music? it gently diminishes its action, glides smoothly above its resting place, till the waving of its wings begin to be imperceptible, at last ceased, and the bird remains suspended and motionless in the air.

About noon of the second day's journey, the young prince and his party approached an Indian village, situated on the rising bank of a small river. Some of the youths were naked up to their hips in the water, fishing with rods and lines; while others, younger, were diverting themselves in shooting frogs with their bows and arrows. On seeing Smith, the children took to their heels and ran to some squaws, who were gazing before their wigwams; but the stouter youth stood their ground, and began to shout with great vocifera-



tion.

Saconet hastened forward to announce to the inhabitants the coming of the son of Powhatan, to whom they were tributary; when a herald went round to proclaim the news, and the whole village came out, following their chief, who presented to the prince the pipe of peace, curiously painted, and ornamented with feathers.

The prince smoked out of the pipe with graceful condescension, when the tributary chief dug a hole in the ground, and buried a painted tomahawk. The prince, in his turn, presented a belt of wampum to the chief, which served as a new ratification of peace, and was to record to the latest posterity, by the hieroglyphics into which the shells were formed, every stipulated article in the treaty between them.

A repast of hamoney was now served to the visitors, which was succeeded by a dance composed of the prince and his warriors, and the most beautiful virgins of the village. They beat the ground with their feet to the music of a drum made of a skin stretched over a gourd; and when they had danced till the moon gilded the trees, and the expiring fire of the wigwam scarce reflected the shadows of the wigwam scarce reflected the shadows of the dancers, the chief of the village admonished his princely guest of the lateness of the hour, and haranguing him with great solemnity, entreated that he and his young war-captains would confirm the bond of friendship with his tribe, by selecting each a mistress from the virgins of the dance. Upon which the nymphs affecting terror in their looks, took to their heels into the woods, followed closely by Nantaquas and

his warriors, who soon returned to the wigwam, amidst the shouts of the village, each bearing in his arms a throbbing bosomed partner.

The party now resumed their journey through a country which might be assimilated to one continued forest. Tall trees of pine planted by the hand of nature, in regular rows, bordered their path. All was rudeness, silence and solitude. No animal was seen but here and there a deer gliding through the trees, and no sound was heard but that of the wood-pecker. There was no other object to employ the sight, and no other noise to disturb the repose of the wilderness.

The wood-pecker, in striking his beak against a tree, makes a sharp noise, which he keeps up for some time by quick repetition. It is a bird of peculiar instinct. It looks for worms among the trunks of those trees that have lost their bark. It clasps the tree with its breast close, and listens if it can hear a worm eating the wood. On the first sound, it pierces the wood in that part, and pricking the worm with its hard and pointed tongue, instantly draws it out.

On approaching the settlement of James Town, Nantaquas and his party set up the cry of arrival. Captain Smith hastened forward, and was received with great warmth by Mr. Rolfe, and the acclamations of the whole colony.

And thus, captain Smith, after seven weeks' captivity returned to James Town, improved in his knowledge of the country, and the language of the natives. He behaved to the young prince and his party with the most flattering attention; and having shewn Paw-hunt a brass nine-pounder, desired



He would carry it with his compliments to the king. The weight of the cannon soon deterred him from the attempt; but when the Indians saw captain Smith discharge it, loaded with stone, amidst the boughs of a large oak, they ran with wonder and dismay from the engine of terror.

Finding every effort ineffectual to transport the gun to Powhatan, their attention was turned to the toys captain Smith exhibited before them. With these he loaded the young prince and his whole party, after selecting the most dazzling as presents for Powhatan, Opitchapan, and the tender Pocahontas.

When captain Smith returned to James Town, he found the colony in the utmost confusion. They considered their affairs desperate, and were fitting a bark to return to England. Our adventurer exerted his abilities to frustrate the execution of this project. He lost no occasion to adorn with every embellishment of imagination, the beauty and fertility of the country he had travelled through; he dwelt with admiration on the grain deposited in the store-houses of the natives; and, in fact, represented it to be a second Canaan, a land that flowed with milk and honey. His eloquence was not without the desired effect. He prevailed upon the bravest of the colonists to alter their resolution, and by their influence he overawed the extravagant projects of the rest. The Virginians, therefore, justly regard him as the saviour of that infant plantation.

The colonists now thought once more of maintaining the fort; and in this resolution they were confirmed by the coming of Nantaquas and Pocahontas, with a numerous train of attendants,

loaded with Indian corn, and other grain of the country.

The colonists flocked with eager curiosity to behold the Indian princess, who had saved, by her interposition, the life of their chief; nor was their admiration less excited by the beauty of her person, than the humanity of her disposition.

The acclamations of the croud affected to tears the sensibility of the princess; but her native modesty was abashed; she clung innocently to Smith, and hid her face in his bosom.

The same year captain Newport arrived from England, with a reinforcement of men, and a supply of provisions. The ship also brought a quantity of trinkets, and captain Newport was very profuse in sending presents to Powhatan, desirous to impress him with an idea of the grandeur of the English nation. In a visit which he made to the monarch, under the escort of captain Smith, he was received with great magnificence: but in trading with the savage chief, he found himself outwitted. Powhatan in a lofty strain said to captain Newport, "It is not agreeable to the greatness of such men as we are, to trade, like common people, for trifles; lay down, therefore, at once, all your goods, and I will give you the full value for them." Captain Smith perceived the snare, and warned captain Newport of it; but he, thinking to out-brave the savage prince, displayed the whole of his store. Powhatan then set such a price on his corn, that not more than four bushels could be obtained, and the necessary supply would have failed the colony, had not the inventive genius of captain Smith devised an artifice that proved successful.



He had secreted some trifles; and among them a parcel of blue beads which apparently without design he exposed to the eye of Powhatan. The bait caught him, and he earnestly desired to purchase them. Smith, in his turn, raised their value; extolling them as the most precious jewels, resembling the colour of the sky and worthy the noblest sovereigns in the universe. The imagination of the Indian monarch was inflamed, and he made large offers. Captain Smith affected to hold a council with the people, and at length exchanged a pound of blue beads for five hundred bushels of corn.

Having finished the necessary business of the season, and dispatched captain Newport's ship for England, captain Smith undertook a voyage of discovery, with twelve others. They went down James river in an open barge, in company with the ship; and having parted with her at cape Henry, they crossed the mouth of the bay, and fell in with a cluster of islands without cape Charles, which they called Smith's isles, a name they still bear. At the mouth of the Rappahannock the boat grounded, and while they were waiting for the tide, they employed themselves in sticking with their swords the fish which were left on the flats. Smith having stuck his sword into a stingray, the fish raised its tail, and with its sharp indented thorn wounded him in the arm. The wound was extremely painful, and swelled to that degree, that they expected him to die; and he gave them orders to bury him on a neighbouring island. But one of the party, by the help of the oil of the fish, so allayed the anguish and swelling, that Smith was able to eat part of it

for his supper. The place, from this occurrence, was called Stingray Point, which name it still retains. They afterwards ranged the bay of Chesapeake, as far northward as the falls of Susquehannah, entering every tributary river, and examining its shores.

The Virginian Company in London, in order to gain the favour of Powhatan, sent him a royal present, consisting of a bason and ewer, a bed and furniture, a chair of state, a suit of scarlet clothes, with a cloak and crown, to be presented him in due form.

This present did not meet with the approbation of captain Smith. With a few gaudy beads he could have levied contributions on Powhatan; whereas a profusion of presents would only increase his pride and insolence. He, however, with four men only, travelled to Werocomoco, to invite the Indian monarch to James Town; but he was absent with his chief warriors on a hunting excursion. Nantaquas, however, received him with the graces of urbanity; and the transport his coming lighted up in the features of the lady Pocahontas, demonstrated what enjoyment she found in his presence.

In the evening Poachontas entertained captain Smith and his company with a dance. In an open plain a fire being made, the guests were seated by it. Suddenly a noise was heard in an adjacent wood, which so alarmed them, that, flying to their arms, they seized on some old men as hostages, imagining they were betrayed. Upon this the young princess came running to captain Smith, and passionately embracing him, offered herself to be killed if any harm should happen to



him or his company. The noise which had disconcerted them was made by thirty girls, who were preparing for the dance. They made their appearance with no other covering than a girdle of green leaves, and their skins painted, each one of a different color. Their leader had a pair of buck's horns on her head, an otter's skin as a girdle, and another on one arm; in the other hand she held a bow and arrow, and over her back was hung a quiver. The rest of them had horns on their heads, and wooden swords in their hands. With shouting and singing, they formed a ring round the fire, and performed a circular dance for about an hour, when they returned in the same order they had advanced.

The next day Powhatan arrived, and captain Smith told him that he had received a present for him from the king of England, and invited him to James Town, where he would deliver it to him; Powhatan declined going to James Town. The present, being, therefore, put on board the boats, was carried down James River, and up the Pamunkey to Werocomoco; while Mr. Rolfe, with fifty men, went across by land, and met the boats, in which he passed the river, and assisted at the proposed interview.

Every thing being prepared for the ceremony of coronation, the present was brought from the boats; the bason and ewer were deposited, the bed and chair were set up, the scarlet suit and cloak were put on the back of the Indian monarch, though not till Nantaquas and Pocahontas had assured him, that the habiliments would do him no harm: but they had great difficulty in persuading him to receive the crown, nor

would he bend his knee, nor incline his head in the least. After many attempts, and with actual pressing on his shoulders, they at last made him stoop a little, and put it on. Instantly, a signal being given, the men in the boats fired a volley; at which the savage monarch started with horror, imagining that a design was forming to destroy him in the summit of his glory: but, being assured it was meant as a compliment, his fears subsided, and in return for the robes of royalty received from king James, he desired captain Smith would present him with his old fur mantle, and deer-skin shoes.

The supplies procured by trading being sufficient for the support of the colony, and hunger very pressing, captain Smith ventured on the dangerous project of surprising Powhatan, and carrying off his whole stock of provisions. The Indian monarch had formed a similar design on captain Smith; and for the purpose of betraying him, invited him to Werocomoco; promising him, that if he would send men to build him a house, he would load his boat with corn. Captain Smith sent him three Dutch carpenters, who treacherously revealed to him his design.

Captain Smith, unconscious that his project was betrayed, proceeded to Werocomoco with eighteen men. But he found the monarch so much on his guard that it was impracticable to execute his design.

Captain Smith passed the day in conversation with Powhatan on indifferent subjects. The Indian monarch practised every blandishment to make his guest lay aside his arms; but the weary soldier would not. At length, to-



wards evening, Powhatan retired to a remote wigwam in the woods, under pretence of convening a council of his elders, taking with him Nantaquas and his daughter Pocahontas. His design was to massacre captain Smith and his people at supper. His oldest warriors were appointed their respective post of ambush, to wage among the whites unseen destruction. No quarter was to be given, no captives to be made; but all were to be tomahawked and scalped without distinction. The Indians, tenacious of their monarch's rights, were impatient to commit the meditated slaughter; and it would doubtless have been effected but for the tenderness of Pocahontas. This amiable girl, at the risk of her life, stole from the side of her father, and in passing in the dark through the woods, told captain Smith, with tears in her eyes, of the plot, and then privately returned.

Woman! all heavenly woman! thou art every where the ornament of creation, and the empire of benevolence over thy bosom is every where apparent! Whether in the polished cities of Europe, or among the rude forests of America, thou art susceptible of the same softness, and canst practice the same humanity.

When the Indians brouget in the supper, captain Smith obliged them to taste of every dish; his arms were in readiness, and his men vigilant; and though there came numerous messengers in quick succession, under pretence of friendly enquiries, they found captain Smith and his company so well prepared for an attack, that nothing was attempted, and the party returned home in safety.

Captain Smith was now unre-

mitting in his endeavours to give the settlement importance. His care, courage, and vigilance, not only defeated the projects of the Indians, but impressed them with awe; and no fear was any longer entertained of incursions from Powhatan.

But at this period an accident happened to captain Smith, which deprived the colonists of his services. From the sea to the falls of James river, the face of the country is uniformly level; but where the water becomes obstructed, the land swells into the prospect of hills rising over hills.

Captain Smith finding it necessary, from the great influx of emigrants to the colony, to establish a new settlement, made choice of this spot; and leaving Mr. Rolfe in command of the fort at James Town, began to throw up a redoubt at the new plantation. But while he was lying asleep one night in the boat, a spark from a fire which had been kindled by a boy communicated to his powder bag, which blew up, and burnt him in a deplorable manner. Awakening in surprise, and finding himself wrapt in flames, he leaped into the water; but he afterwards found the flesh torn from his thighs, and his body much burnt.

In this condition captain Smith was conveyed to James Town, where, there being neither a surgeon, nor surgeon's chest, he embarked in a ship that had brought over a reinforcement of men, and was ready to sail for England. It was on Michaelmas day, 1609, that captain Smith bade farewell to that shore, on which he had founded a colony, that was decreed in the progress of time to become an independent empire, and, confederating itself with other colonies